



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

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ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91803-1331
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GAIL FARBER, Director

ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:
P.O. BOX 1460
ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91802-1460

January 10, 2012

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

ADOPTED

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

33 January 10, 2012

Sachi A. Hamai
SACHI A. HAMAI
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

**DELEGATE AUTHORITY TO THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS
TO ENTER INTO A FUNDING EXCHANGE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES AND THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE 2013 AND 2015
STATEWIDE LOCAL STREETS AND ROADS NEEDS ASSESSMENTS
(ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS)
(3 VOTES)**

SUBJECT

This action is to authorize the Director of Public Works or her designee to enter into a cooperative agreement between the County of Los Angeles and the County Engineers Association of California whereby the County of Los Angeles is to provide up to \$250,000 of Highway Users Tax funds to the County Engineers Association of California to finance a portion of the cost of the 2013 and 2015 Statewide Local Streets and Roads Needs Assessments. The payment of these funds is to be predicated upon the County of Los Angeles' receipt of an equivalent amount of Federal Regional Surface Transportation Program funds from the State of California through the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority. The agreement further provides for the County of Los Angeles to contribute a fixed sum of \$24,000 toward the cost of the 2013 and 2015 Statewide Local Streets and Roads Needs Assessments.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

Authorize the Director of Public Works or her designee to enter into a cooperative agreement between the County of Los Angeles and the County Engineers Association of California whereby the County of Los Angeles is to provide up to \$250,000 of Highway Users Tax funds to the County Engineers Association of California to finance a portion of the cost of the 2013 and 2015 Statewide Local Streets and Roads Needs Assessments, with the payment of these funds to be predicated upon the County of Los Angeles' receipt of an equivalent amount of Federal Regional Surface

Transportation Program funds from the State of California through the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority and providing for the County of Los Angeles to contribute a fixed sum of \$24,000 toward the cost of the 2013 and 2015 Statewide Local Streets and Roads Needs Assessments.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

The purpose of the recommended action is to authorize the Director of Public Works or her designee to enter into a cooperative agreement between the County of Los Angeles (County) and the County Engineers Association of California (CEAC) under which the County is to provide \$250,000 of Highway Users Tax (gas tax) funds to CEAC to finance a portion of the cost of the 2013 and 2015 Statewide Local Streets and Roads Needs Assessments (Needs Assessments). The payment of these funds to CEAC is predicated on the County's receipt of an equivalent amount of Federal Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) funds from the State of California (State) through the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LACMTA). The agreement further provides for the County of Los Angeles to contribute a fixed sum of \$24,000 toward the cost of the Needs Assessments.

CEAC has taken the lead in preparing the Needs Assessments, which provide a comprehensive and systematic assessment of pavement and nonpavement transportation needs on the city street and county road system in California. Prior Needs Assessments have proven to be a valuable resource for policymakers and the public when making decisions regarding the allocation of transportation revenues.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The Countywide Strategic Plan directs the provisions of Operational Effectiveness (Goal 1) and Community and Municipal Services (Goal 3). The Needs Assessments will be used to enhance ongoing discussions at the State level regarding the needs of the local street and road system and the additional funding required for those needs. With additional State resources, the Department of Public Works will be able to address more local transportation needs that will result in an increase in the quality of life for residents of the County.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

There will be no impact to the County's General Fund.

The County's payment of up to \$250,000 in gas tax funds to CEAC will be offset by the Federal RSTP funds to be received by the County for use on a qualifying County road construction project that would have otherwise been financed with gas tax funds. The County's fixed contribution of \$24,000 toward the cost of the Needs Assessments represents the County's formula-based share of the cost.

The up to \$274,000 in County gas tax funds to be paid to CEAC is available in the Fiscal Year 2011-12 Road Fund Budget.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

In 2007, CEAC and the California State Association of Counties, in partnership with the League of California Cities, embarked on an effort to conduct an infrastructure preservation needs assessment

study for the local street and road system. Spurred by a \$250,000 contribution from the County toward the effort, cities and counties across the State made individual financial contributions to raise over \$600,000 for the study. This funding allowed CEAC to contract with Nichols Consulting Engineers to conduct the study. The initial Needs Assessment was released in 2009 and a subsequent update was released early this year.

CEAC proposes to again take the lead in preparing the Needs Assessments for 2013 and 2015. The total cost of the consultant services for this effort is estimated to be \$500,000. The Regional Transportation Planning Agencies (RTPAs) and Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) across the State will contribute a total of \$250,000 toward the cost of the Needs Assessments based on a formula. California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) is accepting assignments of RSTP funds from these agencies to cover their respective shares of the cost. Since the RSTP funds cannot readily be used for the Needs Assessments, Caltrans proposes to provide these RSTP funds to the County through LACMTA, with the County to forward an equivalent amount of gas tax funds to CEAC to finance the RTPAs' and MPOs' shares of the cost. The counties and the cities will contribute \$125,000, respectively, for a total of \$250,000 toward the cost of the Needs Assessments. Under the terms of the proposed agreement, the County will pay \$24,000 to CEAC to cover its share of the cost.

The proposed exchange agreement will be approved as to form by County Counsel prior to execution by the Director or her designee.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

In accordance with Section 15378(b)(4) of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, the proposed action does not constitute a project and therefore is not subject to the requirements of CEQA. The approval of the agreement is a fiscal activity that does not involve any commitment to any specific project which may result in a potentially significant impact on the environment.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

This action will result in no impact to current services or projects. The proposed Needs Assessments are of general County interest.

CONCLUSION

Please return one adopted copy of this letter to the Department of Public Works, Programs Development Division.

The Honorable Board of Supervisors

1/10/2012

Page 4

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gail Farber".

GAIL FARBER

Director

GF:JTW:pr

c: Chief Executive Office (Rita Robinson)
County Counsel
Executive Office